

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 154603

10

ORIGIN EA-04

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /005 R

66611

DRAFTED BY: EA/TB:VLTOMSETH/HFO

APPROVED BY: EA/TB:JBDEXTER

----- 030246

R 172036Z JUL 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

S E C R E T STATE 154603

FOLLOWING REPEAT BANGKOK 11379 ACTION SECSTATE INFO
MANILA LONDON TEHRAN CINCPAC SECDEF 12 JULY.

QUOTE

S E C R E T BANGKOK 11379

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MILL, TH, MOPS, XO

SUBJECT: U.S. INDIAN OCEAN PATROLS FROM UTAPAO

REF: A. STATE 132839; B. BANGKOK 10805; C. BANGKOK 11314;
D. BANGKOK 11324

SUMMARY: THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS INFORMED AMBASSADOR
KINTNER TODAY THAT THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT REQUESTS THE
U.S. TO STOP ALL RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS FROM UTAPAO OVER
THE INDIAN OCEAN. THE AMBASSADOR TOLD THE FOREIGN
MINISTER THAT WE WOULD, OF COURSE, COMPLY BUT GAVE HIM
BACKGROUND OF PAST FLIGHTS FROM UTAPAO, STRESSED THE
IMPORTANCE TO THAILAND OF A BALANCE OF POWER IN THE
INDIAN OCEAN, AND ASKED THAT THE THAI GOVERNMENT KEEP
THE MATTER UNDER CONSIDERATION. THE LOGISTICAL SUPPORT
FOR DIEGO GARCIA, FOR THE TIME BEING AT LEAST, WILL

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 154603

APPARENTLY NOT BE AFFECTED. THE RTG DECISION WAS MADE TO

AVOID DOMESTIC CRITICISM, MFA TOLD US, SINCE THE AGREEMENT UPON WHICH AMERICAN FORCES ARE BASED IN THAILAND IS ONLY TO COUNTER AGGRESSION IN INDOCHINA. END SUMMARY.

1. AMBASSADOR KINTNER MET THE FOREIGN MINISTER JULY 12 TO DISCUSS INDIAN OCEAN MATTERS. PRESENT ON THE THAI SIDE, IN ADDITION TO THE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER, WERE THE UNDER SECRETARY, AMBASSADOR ANAN, THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF INFORMATION, AND THE AMERICAN DESK OFFICER. AMBASSADOR KINTNER HAD SOUGHT THE APPOINTMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING U.S. NAVAL FLIGHTS OVER THE INDIAN OCEAN ORIGINATING IN THAILAND AT UTAPAO ROYAL THAI NAVY AIRFIELD AND THE APPROVAL OF THESE FLIGHTS BY THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT. THE THAI HAD DELAYED IN GRANTING THE APPOINTMENT AND, AS THE MEETING BEGAN, IT BECAME APPARENT THAT THEY HAD PROBABLY DONE SO WHILE WORKING OUT THEIR OWN POSITION ON THIS SUBJECT. (SHORTLY BEFORE DEPARTING FOR THE MEETING WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER, WE HAD BEEN INFORMED BY PHONE CALL FROM THE U.S. MILITARY LIAISON OFFICER AT RTG THAT A SUPREME COMMAND DECISION TERMINATING U.S. RECCE FLIGHTS FROM UTAPAO HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE.) FOLLOWING THE AMBASSADOR'S INTRODUCTORY SENTENCE SETTING FORTH THE PURPOSE OF HIS CALL, THE FOREIGN MINISTER STATED THAT THE INDIAN OCEAN WAS ALSO A MATTER OF CONCERN TO HIS GOVERNMENT AND ONE WHICH THEY WISHED TO DISCUSS. HE SAID THAT IT HAD BECOME A DIFFICULT SUBJECT FOR HIS GOVERNMENT AND THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO REQUEST THAT THE US "BE GOOD ENOUGH TO TRY TO OMIT DOING ANYTHING IN CONNECTION WITH THE INDIAN OCEAN FROM UTAIAO" AND "THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD LIKE TO SEE THE U.S. OMIT SENDING OF RECONNAISSANCE PLANES FROM UTAPAO TO THE INDIAN OCEAN."

2. THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THE EXPLANATION BY THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT TO THE THAI PUBLIC HAS BEEN THAT U.S. FORCES ARE STATIONED IN THAILAND ONLY TO COUNTER AGGRESSION IN INDOCHINA. ANYTHING BEYOND THIS, HE SAID, WOULD MAKE THE THAI GOVERNMENT AN EVEN GREATER TARGET OF STUDENTS AND OTHER CRITICS. HE SAID HE HOPED THE U.S. WOULD ACCEPT HIS GOVERNMENT'S WISHES.

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 03 STATE 154603

3. THE AMBASSADOR REPLIED THAT THE U.S. WOULD, OF COURSE, DO NOTHING IN THAILAND TO VIOLATE THE DESIRES OF THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT BUT SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO PROVIDE BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT AND TO DISCUSS IT FURTHER. AS AN INTRODUCTION, HE REVIEWED THE RIVALRY BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE SOVIET UNION SINCE WORLD WAR II AND THE INCREASING BUILDUP OF MILITARY STRENGTH BY THE

SOVIET UNION VIS-A-VIS THE FREE WORLD, INCLUDING NAVAL BUILDUP IN THE INDIAN OCEAN DURING RECENT YEARS. THE AMBASSADOR OUTLINED THE STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE OF CONTROL OF THE INDIAN OCEAN AND POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES FOR CONCERNED NATIONS, INCLUDING THAILAND, SHOULD THE SOVIETS OR PRC COME TO CONTROL THE INDIAN OCEAN.

4. THE AMBASSADOR RELATED THE HISTORY OF U.S. NAVY P-3 FLIGHTS FROM UTAPAO OVER THE INDIAN OCEAN SINCE 1969, POINTING OUT THAT THE U.S. HAD KEPT THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT INFORMED THROUGH SUPREME COMMAND HEADQUARTERS (FORWARD). THE AMBASSADOR ALSO RECOUNTED THE BRIEFINGS OF OFFICIALS OF THE SUPREME COMMAND AND THE FOREIGN MINISTRY SINCE LAST OCTOBER. AMBASSADOR KINTNER EXPLAINED THE PURPOSES OF RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS AND PROVIDED INFORMATION ABOUT THE DATA DERIVED FROM THEM. HE STRESSED THE BENEFITS TO THE THAI OF INFORMATION SUCH AS WEATHER DATA ALREADY PROVIDED ROUTINELY FROM RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS, AND OUR WILLINGNESS TO SHARE ANY INFORMATION DESIRED BY THE THAI.

5. AMBASSADOR KINTNER SAID HE WOULD REPORT THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT'S DECISION TO HIS GOVERNMENT. ON THE BASIS OF HIS CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON, HE KNEW THERE WOULD BE CONSIDERABLE CONCERN BECAUSE WASHINGTON REGARDED THESE FLIGHTS AS ESSENTIAL TO OUR EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN A BALANCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN. HE STRESSED HIS HOPE THAT THE THAI WOULD STUDY CAREFULLY THE BRIEFING PAPERS AND DOCUMENTS HE WAS LEAVING WITH THEM ON THE SUBJECT, AND RECONSIDER THE DECISION IN THE FUTURE.

6. THE FOREIGN MINISTER EXPRESSED HIS OWN CONCERN ABOUT THE SOVIET BUILDUP IN THE INDIAN OCEAN, BUT REITERATED THAT USE OF FACILITIES IN THAILAND HAD BEEN RESTRICTED
SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 04 STATE 154603

TO INDOCHINA IN THE ORIGINAL AGREEMENT (VIZ THE 1967 PUBLIC STATEMENT REGARDING U.S. OPERATIONS OUT OF UTAPAO). HE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE ROYAL THAI GOVERNMENT HAD JOINED OTHER COUNTRIES IN CALLING FOR AN INDIAN OCEAN ZONE OF PEACE AND HAD MADE PUBLIC COMMITMENT TO IT. AMBASSADOR ANAN, WHO WAS SOMEWHAT AGGRESSIVE IN HIS COMMENTS DURING THE MEETING, ADDED THAT THAILAND HAD ALSO SIGNED THE KUALA LUMPUR DECLARATION ON THE ZONE OF PEACE AND CANNOT FOLLOW CONTRADICTORY POLICIES IN DIFFERENT AREAS. HE ALSO STATED HIS COUNTRY'S DESIRE TO AVOID CRITICISM IN THE U.N.

7. THE FOREIGN MINISTER SAID HE HOPED THE U.S. COULD FIND ANOTHER MEANS TO ACCOMPLISH ITS PURPOSES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN IN ORDER TO HELP THE CURRENT THAI GOVERNMENT WITH

ITS "VERY DIFFICULT POLITICAL SURROUNDINGS." THE AMBASSADOR SAID ALTERNATE ARRANGEMENTS WOULD BE DIFFICULT, SINCE CLARK AIR FORCE BASE IS SOME 1,500 MILES AWAY. THE THAI SUGGESTED AIRCRAFT CARRIERS, DIEGO GARCIA, AND IRAN AS POSSIBLE BASES FOR RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS. THE AMBASSADOR SAID WE WOULD BE LOOKING INTO EVERY POSSIBILITY.

8. CHARUNPHAN SAID THAT TIMES HAVE CHANGED AND THAT HIS GOVERNMENT MUST NOW EXPLAIN ITS POSITION TO THE NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY AND GUARD AGAINST CRITICISM FROM STUDENTS AND INTELLECTUALS. HE SAID THE THAI DO NOT LIKE TO CAUSE PROBLEMS FOR FRIENDS AND WISH TO COOPERATE, BUT THEY MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THEIR INTERNAL SITUATION. HE SAID IT IS SOMETIMES NECESSARY TO "SUFFER LESS IMPORTANT THINGS" IN ORDER TO PRESERVE THE MORE IMPORTANT. HE CITED THE STRONG STATEMENTS THAT BOTH HE AND THE DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER HAVE MADE REGARDING THE NECESSITY OF U.S. FORCES BEING STATIONED IN THAILAND TO DETER NORTH VIETNAMESE AGGRESSION, AND HE SAID THEY WOULD STAND FIRM ON THIS MATTER.

9. THE MEETING WAS FRIENDLY AND CORDIAL THROUGHOUT AND OTHER SUBJECTS WERE DISCUSSED WHICH WILL BE REPORTED BY OTHER MESSAGES. THE MEETING ENDED WITH AMBASSADOR KINTNER ASKING THE THAI TO PLEASE KEEP THIS MATTER UNDER CONSIDERATION AND SAYING THAT WE HOPED WE COULD REOPEN THE SUBJECT IN THE SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 05 STATE 154603

FUTURE.

10. COMMENT: THE AMBASSADOR DELIBERATELY AVOIDED RAISING THE QUESTION OF SUPPORT FLIGHTS DURING THE MEETING AND, BASED ON INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM RTG SUPREME COMMAND (SEE BANGKOK 11324), WE BELIEVE THE RTG BAN APPLIES ONLY TO RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS.

11. AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT: THE HEIGHTENED SENSITIVITY OF THE PRESENT RTG TO INTERNAL CRITICISM AS WELL AS CHARGES FROM ADJACENT COUNTRIES THAT IT HAS BECOME A U.S. STOOGE IS LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS THAI DECISION. THE ISSUE BECAME PUBLIC DURING MY WASHINGTON CONSULTATIONS BY MALADROIT TIMING OF A MAY 15 P-3 FLIGHT FROM UTAPAO WHILE NEWSMEN WERE AT THE BASE TO OBSERVE INITIAL DRAWDOWN OF B-52 AIRCRAFT. WHILE IN WASHINGTON I CONVEYED MY APPREHENSION OVER THE CONSEQUENCES OF THIS DISCLOSURE IN LIGHT OF THE RTG OFFICIALS TO A STEADY BARRAGE OF ATTACK AGAINST U.S. MILITARY PRESENCE. TODAY IN EFFECT, THE FOREIGN MINISTER TOLD US THAT HE WILL CONTINUE TO DEFEND OUR UTILIZATION OF THE RTAF BASES IF WE DO NOT INSIST THAT HE ATTEMPT AT

THIS TIME TO JUSTIFY RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS OVER THE
INDIAN OCEAN FROM UTAPAO. END AMBASSADOR'S COMMENT.

12. THE MFA HAS REPLIED TO QUERIES REGARDING AMBASSADOR'S
CALL ON THE FOREIGN MINISTER BY CONFIRMING MEETING AND STATING
THAT SUBJECTS INCLUDED LAOS, CAMBODIA, AND SOUTHEAST
ASIA AND THE SITUATION IN THAILAND, PARTICULARLY THE U.S.
MILITARY PRESENCE, AND THE RECENT THAI FLAG DESECRATION
INCIDENT. MFA SPOKESMAN ADDED THAT THERE MIGHT BE A PRESS
CONFERENCE IN A FEW DAYS, AT WHICH SOMETHING MORE ABOUT
THE MEETING MIGHT BE DISCUSSED. COMMENT: THIS IS
ENCOURAGING INDICATION THAT MFA IS NOT RUNNING TO THE
PRESS WITH A PREPARED STATEMENT NO
THE INDIAN OCEAN FLIGHTS
WITHOUT ALLOWING TIME TO DIGEST INFORMATION SUPPLIED
BY THE AMBASSADOR.
KINTNER UNQUOTE KISSINGER

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PLANS, OBSERVATION AIRCRAFT, MILITARY BASES, UTAPAO, DEPARTMENTAL TELEGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974STATE154603
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: EA/TB:VLTOMSETH/HFO
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740193-0288
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740740/aaaabikm.tel
Line Count: 239
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. STATE 132839; B. BANGKOK 10805; C. . BANGKOK 11314;
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 MAR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <25 JUN 2002 by boyleja, REFER TO OSD>; RELEASED <27 MAR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <28 MAR 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: U.S. INDIAN OCEAN PATROLS FROM UTAPAO
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, MILI, MOPS, ACOM, TH, XO, US
To: CANBERRA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005